FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 4 *6 January 1978*

ARGENTINA

Carter's Tour Unsuccessful, Says Commentator [LA PRENSA 5 Jan]	B 1	1/A5
Martinez Notes First Yacyreta Aid to Paraguay	B 1	1/A5
YPF Contracts With Private Oil Firms Approved	B 2	1/A6

BOLIVIA

Problems, Gains of Rights Campaign Studied [EL DIARIO 29 Dec]	C 1	1/A7
Hunger Strike Continues, Gathers Support	C 2	1/A8
More Sectors Express Support	C 3	1/A9
Falangist Youth Ask Break With Government Line	C 4	1/A10
'Facetas' Reports Siles Zuazo Has Returned	C 4	1/A10

BRAZIL

Geisel Announces Figueiredo As Successor	D 1	1/A11
Text of Geisel Speech	D 1	1/A11
JORNAL Examines Implications of Carter Trip	D 3	1/A13
O ESTADO Interprets Motives for Carter's Trip [3 Jan]	D 4	1/A14
No Date Yet on Trade Agreement With PRC	D 5	1/B1

CHILE

Leigh Hints State of Siege May Be Lifted	E 1	1/B2
Frei, Cardinal Harassed by Demonstrators	E 1	1/B2

COLOMBIA

President Hails USSR Aid in Dam Construction	F 1	1/B3
Famous Doctor Released by Kidnapers	F 2	1/B4
Briefs: Coal Exports	F 2	1/B4

ECUADOR

CEEA Official on Uses of Atomic Energy [EL COMERCIO 24 Dec]	G 1	1/B5

PERU

APRA Leader's Reaction to Morales Bermudez Statement	J 1	1/B6
Belaunde Demands Freely-Elected Civilian Government	J 1	1/B6
Opposes Constituent Assembly Limitations	J 2	1/B7

URUGUAY

Navy Commander Interviewed on Politics, Economy	K 1	1/B8
Navy Rebuts Amnesty International Charge	K 2	1/B9
Jailed Brazilian Newsman Provisionally Released	K 2	1/B9
Briefs: Naval Prefect	K 2	1/B9

MEXICO

ORIT Secretary Scores U.S. Attitude on Braceros M 1 1/B10
PEMEX Director on Sale of Gas to U.S. M 1 1/B10

PANAMA

Torrijos Addresses Press After Meeting U.S. Senators N 1 1/B11
Draft Calendar for Assembly Elections Released N 2 1/B12
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 5 Jan]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Nicaraguan National Guard Deserter Arrives P 1 1/B13
Denounces Somoza Repression P 1 1/B13
British Overseas Development Minister Arrives P 1 1/B13
Briefs: Increased National Income; Attorney General's Death P 2 1/B14

GUATEMALA

Family of Kidnaped Official Accepts EGP Demands P 2 1/B14
Briefs: Ambassador to Israel P 2 1/B14

HONDURAS

Foreign Minister Grants Interview, Views Belize [TIEMPO 27 Dec] P 2 1/B14
New Defense Minister Comments on Elections P 4 1/C2

NICARAGUA

Refugee Reports 64 Political Prisoners in Barracks P 4 1/C2
Briefs: New Army Secretary P 4 1/C2

CUBA

Fidel Castro Receives Spanish Communist Leader Q 1 1/C3
Camacho Explains Objectives of Spanish People [Kingston] Q 1 1/C3
Palestinian Armed Struggle Anniversary Noted Q 1 1/C3
Commemoration of Havana University Anniversary Q 1 1/C3
Culture Ministry, CDR Sign Cooperation Plan Q 3 1/C5
Briefs: Arsonists Arrested; Mexican People's Party Delegation; Q 3 1/C5
National Monument Commission; Matanzas Harvest Meeting;
Livestock-Agricultural Production Meeting; Cienfuegos
Power Plant Output; New Cuban Vessel

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Readiness To Host 8th OAS Meeting Discussed R 1 1/C7
PRD-Social Christian Unity Talks Reported R 1 1/C7
Collision of Ships Reported R 1 1/C7

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Prime Minister Gives Outline of Future Plans [ADVOCATE NEWS 3 Jan] S 1 1/C8

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CARTER'S TOUR UNSUCCESSFUL, SAYS COMMENTATOR

PY051825Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 78 p 3 PY

[Article by LA PRENSA correspondent Guillermo Martinez Marques entitled "Diplomatic tourism"]

[Excerpts] Miami, 4 Jan--President Carter's tour--three continents, seven countries, in 9 days--closes the long chapter of U.S. "traveling diplomacy" in 1977.

It should be pointed out that it was Henry Kissinger who made this kind of "diplomatic tourism" fashionable in the middle of the 1977's. Imitations are never any good, however, and on this occasion failures have made headlines in the press and there has been more criticism than praise.

President Carter's almost apostolic candor does not allow the use of Kissinger's range of subtle publicity stunts.

Microphones, strategically placed by the reporters who accompany him, reveal and broadcast indiscreet comments mumbled in the ear of his closest coworkers. On various occasions, one of those comments has been enough to reveal the failure of several days of patient secret negotiations.

The trip itself has not been fortunate or even timely. It is as if there were persons among the presidential retinue who were interested in making it a failure. After the spontaneous sympathy of the people in Warsaw, an incompetent translator made the Poles angry, an "indiscreet microphone" was enough to spoil popular enthusiasm in India. Some remark by Carter himself annoyed Sadat and clouded the Egyptian-Israeli talks.

The lavish publicity around President Carter's tour of three continents and seven countries in 9 days to close the year 1977 and begin 1978 has thus not been followed by success, and the expectations have not been fulfilled.

The optimists conclude by saying: "There will be other times." Carter plans to make other trips, in American countries and beyond the wide Pacific. He does not recognize a defeat for his "traveling diplomacy."

MARTINEZ NOTES FIRST YACYRETA AID TO PARAGUAY

PY051326Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz was present at a ceremony in which the Banco de la Nacion Argentina announced the granting of a $10-million credit to Paraguay. This credit fulfills the first part of an agreement made by our country to provide our sister country with capital for the construction of the Yacyreta Binational Hydroelectric Project. Martinez de Hoz spoke on this occasion to explain the reasons for this credit. National radio was present at the ceremony, and these are the words of the economy leader:

[Martinez de Hoz--begin recording] This first agreement is the fulfillment of the first stage of the pact undertaken by Argentina to finance Paraguay's contribution to the binational entity. Maybe I can summarize the importance of this act in four basic points.

In the first place, as Debernardi [president of the National Power Administration Board and deputy director general of Itaipu] has justly said, we have begun a new phase in which we have widened our relations with our sister republic Paraguay since the present government took charge of its duties.

All during 1976 the Foreign Ministry, through the visits made by then-minister Admiral Guzzetti and the visit I had occasion to make to Asuncion in August, 1976, and--[breaks thought] the Argentine Government, with the help of the two ministries [foreign affairs and economy], reinitiated relations with Paraguay, which I daresay had been distant. We believe that since then we have formed a new basis for mutual cooperation and coordination of both countries' efforts for our mutual benefit.

This leads us to the second important conclusion we can draw from this ceremony--the importance which Argentina, and presumable Paraguay, give to the regional integration of our (?economies).

That is to say, we both believe that economies should develop even beyond national boundaries. We should first (?improve) our relations with our neighbors with whom we have many real reconomic and geographical similarities. This is why our neighboring territories are in such real need of our economic integration. We need integration in all fields, not just in commerce.

We are attending a ceremony which marks an authentic energy integration--one we are determined to carry out. It also indicates the new manner we have used in all phases of our relationship, for the good of integration at the business level, for general economic investments, and for our mutual efforts to pay for and coordinate our joint action to achieve mutually beneficial development of our economies. [end recording]

YPF CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE OIL FIRMS APPROVED

PY051821Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0715 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5Jan--The Executive Branch yesterday approved contracts agreed to by Government Oil Deposits [YPF] and private oil companies.

The contracts call for unit operation by the firms Bridas SAPIC, Reyder Scott Services, and Quitral Company SAIC with regard to hydrocarbons in the area south of Dorsal in Neuquen Province; the T.E.C.S.A. Company in the areas of Rinconada and Puesto Morales in the Rio Negro Province; the Hector Lapeyrade Oil Company in the Chanares Herrados area in Mendoza Province; and Astra C.A.P.S.A. in the Rio Tumuyan area in Mendoza Province.

Other contracts between YPF and Bridas Sapic-Perez Shipping Company Companc Sacfmfa for primary explitation and secondary recovery in the Cordon area in Santa Cruz Province, and with Astra C.A.P.S.A.-Alfredo Evangelista and Company SAPIC for the same job in the Meseta Espinosa area of Santa Cruz Province, were also approved by executive decree.

Both decrees state that these contracts were the result of the desire to encourage private participation in the country's petroleum production. This means an increase in domestic oil production, replacing crude oil which must now be imported.

PROBLEMS, GAINS OF RIGHTS CAMPAIGN STUDIED

PY051040Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 29 Dec 77 p 2 FY

[Editorial: "Kidnapings and Human Rights"]

[Text] The kidnapings which have taken place in the last few weeks [in Latin America], involving a couple of nuns and a well-known opthalmologist, put violence in the news again. Attacks on peaceful observers of fierce confrontations between antagonistic groups have shaken public opinion.

In the meantime, President Carter's policy of supporting human rights has summoned governments of the free world to relax strong repression against violence as a method of political struggle, and has insistently advocated popular elections to replace de facto governments. President Carter's push for institutionalism has in a few months brought calls to elections in several Latin American countries and with this the hesitant hope of the people, who are confident that democracy strengthened by legitimate government will be able to channel the stormy destinies of these countries toward the path of law. If this does not occur, those who encouraged the democratic calling of the U.S. President as a strategic means to weaken antiextremist action, will enjoy a victory of wickedness over innocence.

On the other hand, it is necessary to emphasize that the U.S. President's efforts are only centered on the area where ideological principles and desires are shared in one way or another. This area, the West, is not only the seat of capitalism--which is so strongly maligned--it is also the unquenchable torch of freedom and respect for human dignity. No relaxation of totalitarian methods has been achieved. Even now, political rivals are suffering in the most sordid dungeons of dictatorships with which, paradoxically, President Carter is attempting a rapprochement which rivals could possibly interpret as capitalist exhaustion under the impact of dialectical claims or a weakening of free world doctrine.

The defense of human rights unequivocally advocated by President Carter must be demanded worldwide and must achieve, through persuasion and negotiation if necessary, the liberation of prisoners paying for the crime of disagreeing with harsh totalitarian regimes. It cannot be demanded, however, that indulgence be granted to the fanatics of hate who destroy hospitals, schools and homes for the aged or kidnap children, nuns and professionals to later negotiate their value and obtain the freedom of the masterminds of death or large sums of money to continue their fratricidal struggle.

Up to now, many congratulate themselves for having used the sincerity of the preacher from Plains. There are many who believe that the force of this doctrine has overwhelmed the weak capitalist arguments and that the relaxation imposed by the Democratic Party administration is the best aid to increased violence.

An analysis of the results shows that President Carter can be credited with restoring institutions in many countries of the continent, and it is hoped that the weakened representative democracy will not be easy ground for organized armed struggle. [paragraph continues]

If this does not occur and Carter's beliefs become the best demonstration of the political maturity of the Latin American countries, all he has to do in addition is to abandon his unilateral requests and demand an agreement between the great powers to abolish the dreadful nuclear weapons and the corrosive effects of hateful fratricide and intolerance. Only then will President Carter triumph in his campaign for human rights.

HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES, GATHERS SUPPORT

PY051710Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The health condition of several people on hunger strike became more serious in recent hours, mainly among the women in the first group at the La Paz Archbishopric. Several doctors had to use glucose to prevent a more serious problem among the strikers, who insist on continuing to fast until the government grants an unrestricted amnesty, decides to withdraw troops from the mining regions, and rehires workers dismissed for political and union activities.

Regarding the group at the Maria Auxiliadora Parish, it was (?learned) that the strikers have locked themselves in a small room. Regarding the group on hunger strike in the PRESENCIA building, it was indicated that only two adults are in bad health. Meanwhile, a fourth group of 13 people and 3 children, who joined the hunger strike on 3 January, continue to support this extreme measure. This group is located in the Santa Isabel building in La Paz.

Sources close to the hunger strikers indicated that they intend to name Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas their representative to cooperate in solving the problem. The Bolivian Medical Association, in an attitude of humane solidarity with the hunger strikers, decided to offer its professional services. Dr (Carlos Aguilar), president of the association, reported that it sent a note to the Children's Hospital to give medical attention to those children who are accompanying their mothers on the hunger strike. A group of doctors will take care of those in the PRESENCIA building and in the Maria Auxiliadora Parish. According to Dr (Aguilar), the care will be uninterrupted, to prevent further (?deterioration) among the strikers.

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights in Bolivia declared that the groups on hunger strike at various sites in the country are not guided or instigated by this institution or any political party. It reasserted that the groups on hunger strike are a firm expression of a generalized feeling of frustration in the face of the inconsistency of the government, which announced with great publicity the opening of a constitutionalization process and then denied it through an amnesty which did not deserve the name and was harshly criticized by parties supporting the government.

The statement by the assembly, which is signed by members of the National Executive Committee, says that the recent Interior Ministry communique (?confused) the public because of its threatening and condemning language and because of its baseless statements which in no way agree with the preelectoral stage which the government says we are experiencing.

The declaration of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights in Bolivia later states: Regarding the background given by the Interior Ministry on the conduct of some people, that statement deserves no credibility following issuance of the list of people who, according to the government, cannot return to the country.

The Interior Ministry classified respectable and well-known people as extremists and criminals and condemned small children and even people who died long ago as dangerous terrorists, states the assembly document. It later reasserts that the hunger strike problem does not concern only four people, as the communique states.

The assembly stated that a true amnesty decree is needed, not because it is requested by the wives of some of those directly affected, but because it is an act of justice.

The assembly maintains that 91 Siglo XX workers have lost their jobs because of union activities, in addition to 35 mining leaders and other Bolivian Labor Central [COB] leaders. It adds that many other miners from other districts have also lost their jobs.

The assembly document concludes: The problem will not be solved with threats or reckless accusations. The government will have to begin a dialog with the people, who expect and wish it. Only through dialog will conflicts be overcome. (?Restrictive measures) will do nothing but postpone true solutions which can guarantee real social peace. The Assembly for Human Rights is willing to make its best effort toward a dialog for cooperation in order to achieve a quick and just solution to the present problem.

More Sectors Express Support

PY0601142Y La Paz Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2339 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Summary] The hunger strike of 20 wives and children of mineworkers in demand for a general amnesty is now 8 days old and has been joined by La Paz and Cochabamba University leaders. The total number of hunger strikers is now over 75. The various groups are scattered among the La Paz Archbishopric, the daily PRESENCIA, the UN branch office in La Paz, the Church of Maria Auxiliadora and the University of La Paz. The strike has spread to Cochabamba, where 15 persons are carrying it out at the San Francisco Church.

The wife of mine leader (Andres Mora) is pregnant and according to the daily PRESENCIA her health is poor. "The woman told the daily that as a mother she is ready to lose the child she is expecting and even die if necessary to see justice done."

The access of journalists to the various groups of strikers, especially the one which is at the archbishopric, is open, but the officials of the archbishopric stated that they refuse it to politicans who wish to profit by the sufferings of the strikers. "Interior Minister Jimenez Gallo told the journalists that the government will act firmly to perserve order at whatever the cost."

The powerful grassroots committee of a shoe factory in Cochabamba announced a state of emergency. In a communique issued today, the committee demanded from the government a general amnesty for workers and leaders exiled for political and union reasons, and indicated that if the government failed to fulfill the demands of the strikers they would act as they thought fit.

Students, professors and administrative workers of Cochabamba University of San Javier expressed their support for the strikes and told the daily LOS TIEMPOS that they would take the appropriate measures if the government failed to fulfill the demands.

[illegible] Paz Arnibiday said that the church is acting as a mediator to bring the parties [illegible] and indicated that it has held several meetings with government officials to find a solution.

Various political parties have also expressed concern over the hunger strike of the women, children and students. Leonidas Sanchez, executive secretary of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], Paz Estenssoro's faction, indicated that his party had never accepted the amnesty issued by the government and added that the Bolivian people need a general amnesty.

Guillermo Aponte Gurella, leader of the Socialist Party, expressed his concern over the women strikers and emphasized their courageous attitude. "Aponte Gurella stated that the interior minister should show more humanitarism and understanding for the tragedy of these people who have been deprived of their loved ones for a long time." He said that the measure was a desperate gesture of mothers and children who, disappointed with the government's amnesty, had no choice but to go on a hunger strike.

At the same time, the peasant organization Tupaj Katari issued a communique supporting the women strikers.

The executive board of the banned Bolivian Mineworkers Federation [FSTMB] ordered the massive mobilization of the members of the federation to provide support for the various hunger strikes. In a document signed by Gilberto Bernal, (Justiniano M Narria), (Sylvestre Mendoza) and (Walter Zuleta), all of whom are underground, the federation declared unwavering support for the hunger strikers and their demands for a general amnesty. The FSTMB advised all its members to be on alert in view of the situation arising from the hunger strikes, and expressed the gratitude of all Bolivian miners to the strikers. At the same time the FSTMB called other labor sectors to join the demands for a general amnesty and the reinstatement of dismissed workers.

FALANGIST YOUTH ASK BREAK WITH GOVERNMENT LINE

PY051312Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Falange Youth believe that the process and thinking of the nationalist revolution which began in 1971 does not have, nor will it have, any future unless participation of the social forces in the political structure of power is achieved. In a letter to their national head, Gaston Moreira, the Falange Youth express a number of concerns, mainly regarding the party's line of action in relation to the government. In view of fears that Falangist participation in the nationalist revolution is declining, the leaders of the Falange Youth asked their national leader to adopt a political line independent from the present government. According to the Falange Youth, the people who surround President Banzer, with their (?final) objective of personal continuation, intend to manipulate the political reality of the country to fit their will.

'FACETAS' REPORTS SILES ZUAZO HAS RETURNED

PY051323Y [Editorial report PY] La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish states in its "Facetas" program at 0200 GMT on 5 January 1978 that former president Hernan Siles Zuazo has returned to Bolivia. No further comment is made. Siles Zuazo, who has in the past been mentioned as a likely presidential candidate in the coming Bolivian elections was not allowed to return to the country under the government amnesty announced before Christmas.

GEISEL ANNOUNCES FIGUEIREDO AS SUCCESSOR

PY052005Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1935 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 5 Jan--Gen Joao Batista Figueiredo and lawyer Aureliano Chaves make up the presidential ticket which the Brazilian people will have to elect in the October, 1978, elections.

This presidential ticket was announced by President Ernesto Geisel at a meeting held today in Brasilia with top leaders of the official party ARENA.

With the appointments, all comments and rumors disappeared after a crucial day yesterday, right after the dismissal of Gen Hugo Abreu, chief of the presidential military household, who did not agree with the appointment made by the head of Planalto Palace.

Aureliano Chaves' name was no surprise either because 6 months ago he was already indicated as the firmest candidate to accompany General Figueiredo's administration.

Chaves is current governor of the important state of Minas Gerais and an important figure witnin the official party ARNEA.

Jose de Magalhaes Pinto, the single candidate who had emerged from outside the electoral mechanism which (?operates) in Brazil, stressed his rebellion as he (?stated) that he will not give up his position. Political circles pointed out that Magalhaes Pinto's persistence had made President Geisel give up meeting with him to ask him for his withdrawal, leaving the problem to be solved within the official party. Everything indicates that Pinto's candidacy will be rejected by ARENA, which may cause a split within the party.

Text of Geisel Speech

PY061111Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text of speech by President Ernesto Geisel at Planalto Palace at 1600 on 5 January to members of ARENA's Executive Committee, some ministers, senators and deputies and top military officers--read by announcer]

[Text] I take advantage of the presence in this palace of our party's executive committee to submit to the party's consideration the solution which I feel is most appropriate for the presidential succession problem.

I am doing this taking into consideration several circumstances: First of all, I am taking this initiative because I feel that being honorary president and member of the party I have some authority and a good amount of responsibility, because I am the main one responsible for this stage of my government in following the guidelines of the 1964 revolution.

I feel it is my duty to set the course which our revolution will now follow. It is, therefore, thanks to these two positions [honorary president and member of the party] and to the responsibility I have that I am setting the course of the presidential succession. In my speech to the general officers of the armed forces toward the end of 1976, I predicted that this problem could come prematurely.

I told them that this problem should not be treated prematurely because, on the one hand, it could cause divisions, and on the other hand, because of the disturbance it could cause to public administration, and also because it would hinder finding solutions to matters which directly interest the country's administration. But at the same time, I assured them that when I found it reasonable, I would deal with it myself.

Later I reaffirmed that this problem would begin to develop in January, and that is what is happening now. But this does not mean that this problem has not been a concern of mine, of yours and of all responsible Brazilians. I have thought of it for a long time, studied it, and held it deep in my heart. I listened to what others said about it, many times holding informal talks, taking into account what Brazil is, what Brazil is going to be, the peace it will have in the coming years, to find the men who will best be able to lead Brazil to its destiny.

Well, as a result of this work, and considering that January, 1978, has arrived, I feel the time has come to face the problem. And also, because whether we want it or not, the problems which we will have to solve at state level depend on it. We have elections for governors, for senators, for federal deputies, and these problems somehow are related to the problem of presidential succession.

To delay this problem any longer would certainly damage the development of state affairs. I feel, indeed, that the time is appropriate, and I feel that it is my responsibility to face it, and this is the appropriate time to do so.

From the different names which I could study, I submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee and through it to the party, the candidacy for president of his excellency Gen Joao Batista Oliveira Figueiredo, and for vice president, our illustrious friend, his excellency the governor of Minas Gerais, Antonio Aureliano Chaves.

I am certain that these two, because of their background and the qualities they have revealed throughout their lives, are a sure success for us and for the party.

General Figueiredo is a man dedicated to the armed forces, and he has always been outstanding in the army. He is a pioneer revolutionary, a man of very human feelings, with great experience, who was fortunate for many years to have lived in government areas, aware of the problems, the solutions discussed, the solutions given to the problems, and the current state of these problems, both in the internal and in the international framework, where Brazil is developing and is both creating and facing problems.

Therefore, I feel that General Figueiredo is today the most qualified person with the greatest potential to fulfill a new function as president of the republic.

As far as Governor Aureliano Chaves is concerned, I think you probably know his qualifications better than I. A distinguished professor, engineer, politician, deputy, and now governor. He has always been noted for his (?authority), for his character, his administrative capacity, his pacifying and harmonizing spirit.

He is continuing the great project which began in Minas Gerais some years ago, developing his state. He is continuing that project with extraordinary success. Minas Gerais is progressing day by day; it is changing, not only developing geographically, but also economically.

Both men fit the spirit of principles which guide us to develop Brazil, to give greater development to the country, compatible with the times, and especially with speed so that our potential can become power.

Power is what we intend and must use for the benefit of our people, to improve their general living conditions and to guarantee the well being we all hope for--not only to develop the country, but also to set the basic conditions for development, among which I include order as the most important. Brazil needs order, it needs tranquillity, it needs internal peace so that it can really work.

Finally, I also wanted to add that in choosing these two names I wanted to find someone capable, from his way of thinking, his background and his character, of giving life to what I mentioned in my 1 December speech--someone from our revolutionary cadres, capable of carrying out the process of institutionalization, of eliminating the exceptional laws, of giving the country certain safeguards which would allow the people to walk peacefully, and thus, of making it possible for our democracy, not only on paper but in real life, to improve increasingly every day.

This is what I wanted to tell you, and what I wanted to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee, and through this committee, to our party. In the presence that... [Geisel corrects himself], in the hope that in this manner we will reach our objectives.

JORNAL EXAMINES IMPLICATIONS OF CARTER TRIP

FY051942Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL in Portuguese 2 Jan 78 p 10 FY

[Editorial: "Personal touch"]

[Text] Eight days to visit six states will certainly be not enough to give any real substance to the talks to be held by President Carter, with the possible exception (disregarding the trip itself and its itinerary) of what may happen in Teheran, Cairo and Riyadh, where the plan to reinitiate the process of peace in the Middle East might be found. That process has run into a snag because Menahem Begin's plan did not meet expectations.

The determination in making the trip (despite the impasse over the energy program in the U.S. Senate) means that it could not be postponed; it means that there is another objective beyond what does or does not happen in each of the capitals visited. Actually, the praising of Indian democracy, the compliments extended to NATO and the EEC, the expression of solidarity with Giscard D'Estaing on the eve of an electoral campaign, the meeting with Reza Pahlavi as well as the day's work on political marketing in Warsaw, all of these could have been treated at a different level and in a different form. The thing which had to be done at this time was to make known to the world that the new U.S. diplomatic strategy will be completely renovated at the outset of 1978.

That is the only explanation for the unique declaration by the White House on the switch around in the relative importance of Moscow and the capitals to be visited now. It is true that neither the relations with the USSR nor the relations with Teheran or Riyadh have been relegated to second place among Department of State worries. The thing is that suddenly Warsaw and New Delhi have gained importance as centers of international decision making.

The trip and its itinerary means that henceforth the United States intends to give each country and each bloc of countries a personalized treatment, regardless of the reactions elicited in the Kremlin by the U.S. attitudes and positions. This stands for a democratization of the international order and relationships as desired.

If the United States managed to raise firmly that new banner, that country will produce such a sensitive impact and modifications as it did by raising the human rights banner. And the USSR will get entangled in new embarrassments as it realizes that its policy of equilibrium of pressures and influences no longer works.

O ESTADO INTERPRETS MOTIVES FOR CARTER'S TRIP

FY060032Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jan 78 p 3 FY

[From the Notes and Information page: "Carter On The Path of Realpolitik"]

[Text] We had already analyzed the diplomatic objectives of President Carter when he took advantage of the political "recess" in his country to visit six nations which are either key countries in regional conflicts or emerging powers in an interdependent world which has developed several power centers. The Soviet Union has already found out that it can subvert the world power balance to its advantage by conquering the "Third World," and especially the "Fourth World." With this objective in mind, the Soviet Union signed, at the beginning of the seventies, friendship and mutual aid agreements of an eminently military nature with India, Iraq and Egypt. It has also set into motion its Cuban Ghurkas during the second half of this decade in order to incorporate African countries--among which are the former Portuguese colonies in addition to Somalia and Ethiopia--to its ever-expanding empire. In this regard, though still suffering from the Vietnam defeat, the United States made no diplomatic or military efforts to counterbalance Soviet penetration in these countries. Contrary to what one may believe, the spectacular defeats which the Soviet expansionistic adventure experienced in many of these countries had nothing to do with U.S. diplomacy and even less with the much-praised Henry Kissinger's "genius," but were due rather to local forces which liberalized their dictatorial regimes while realizing, at the same time, that Soviet support for their nationalistic causes was no more than a pretext to help carry out the imperialistic objectives of the USSR.

During the presidency of Anwar as-Sadat, Egypt first expelled the 20,000 Soviet soldiers which had been stationed in the Nile Valley under the terms of the mutual friendship and aid accord and under the pretext of helping the Arabs with their military efforts, then almost immediately renounced the accord itself. As for India, it voted out Indira Ghandi, who was changing the old democracy into a discriminatory, dictatorial and corrupt regime while tightening its bonds with the USSR, thus granting it a privileged position in vast areas of the Pacific. Both Anwar as-Sadat's Egypt and Morarji Desai's India reestablished the conditions for a truly nonalined policy all by themselves. At the same time, Iran and Saudi Arabia, thanks to their oil wealth, appeared as rising powers; Shah Reza Pahlavi was able to guarantee the political and military security of the Persian Gulf, the starting point of the world maritime oil route; and King Khalid of Saudi Arabia aquired enough power to help strengthen the world economic order.

Kissinger believed that he was operating within an exclusively bipolar structure. For this "lone ranger" as Carter called him, the only serious dialog was the one going on between the United States and the Soviet Union. He attempted to solve regional problems by means of bilateral understandings between the United States and Soviet Union on the belief--and this was the main mistake of his detente policy--that if military and commercial agreements favorable especially to Soviet interests could be signed with Moscow, the Soviets, mollified and satisfied, would give up their imperialistic and expansionistic quests in the "Third World." However, after getting through detente everything they wanted, the Soviets did not feel inclined to give up the new conquests which nobody seemed to want to prevent. Meanwhile, regional problems continued without solutions, lost in the maze of the U.S.-Soviet relationship. Anwar as-Sadat's greatest achievement is having the initiative of going above the age-old overall conflict framework and seeking a direct and bilateral arrangement with Israel.

In the meantime, the appearance of regional powers and As-Sadat's initiative allowed, and even forced, the United States to take a hand in regional problems, not indirectly through negotiations with Moscow, but directly, cooperating with the emerging powers of peripheral regions. This is why, after initial hesitation, the United States decided to give overall support to As-Sadat's project by requesting the aid of the Shah of Iran, King Khalid and King Husayn, who can help considerably to reinforce the peace front which the Egyptian president is attempting to build.

This is also why Carter decided to visit As-Sadat in Aswan, because President as-Sadat believes that true peace in the Middle East requires U.S. diplomacy to adopt a more impartial position, more compatible with the new constellation of powers than the unilateral protectionism which favored Israel. Moreover, this is the only way Carter can make Husayn, Khalid and Reza Pahlavi close ranks in support of Sadat's brave project. However, by this measure which, under the impact of reality, is following the path of realpolitik, Carter is per force relegating to second place his idealistic crusade for universal respect for human rights. This he does reluctantly, as was shown by his behavior in Teheran and New Delhi.

NO DATE YET ON TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PRC

PY051300Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The date for signing a trade agreement with the PRC has not been set. According to the PRC Embassy in Brasilia, the agreement will be signed soon in Peking. According to the Chinese Embassy the agreement will serve as a reference to guide business sectors in the two countries.

LEIGH HINTS STATE OF SIEGE MAY BE LIFTED

PY060038Y Paris AFP in Spanish 005 GMT 6 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 Jan-- Gen Gustavo Leigh, member of the government junta, stated here today that it is possible that the government may lift the state of siege.

The commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force (FACH) stated that taking into account the support the government now has, "certain measures may be taken in this regard, and it would not be strange if the president himself were to propose it [the lifting of the state of siege]."

Leigh said that the result of yesterday's national consultation was "excellent." In the consultation, 75 percent of the Chilean electorate supported President Augusto Pinochet's position against a resolution of the United Nations which condemned his government for its violation of human rights.

General Leigh also refuted rumors regarding an alleged cooling of his relations with Pinochet due to disagreements stemming from the call for the national consultation.

FREI, CARDINAL HARASSED BY DEMONSTRATORS

PY051957Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 5 Jan--Demonstrations and incidents took place early this morning in front of the residences of former President Eduardo Frei, Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez, and Andres Zaldivar, former president of the dissolved Christian Democratic Party (PDC), it was reported here today.

The police dispersed a group of progovernment youngsters and persons driving cars who were shouting slogans in front of these residences.

The most serious incident took place at Zaldivar's residence after the release of the outcome of the consultation. The demonstrators threw stones at the house and damaged a car belonging to former PDC Congressman Patricio Aylwin.

The police had to intervene to prevent greater damage but did not arrest any of the perpetrators of the attack, who were described by Zaldivar as "fanatic ultrarightists."

PRESIDENT HAILS USSR AID IN DAM CONSTRUCTION

PA0600319Y Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1724 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Speech by Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen at protocol signing ceremony concerning Colombian-USSR cooperation in construction of Urra Dam at the Cordoba Department assembly building in Monteria--live]

[Excerpts] This treaty, approved through the law we signed today, is specially significant both for Colombia and the USSR, for Colombia because to a certain extent we are going to be the pilot nation in regard to USSR technology in the Caribbean Basin. It is true that the USSR has assisted Southern Cone nations and also that the socialist Republic of Cuba owes a great debt to the USSR. But the most ambitious plan, the pilot project, the one which will serve as a showcase of the economic and technical achievements of the USSR, will be in Colombia, in Cordoba Department. [applause] And it will be a school, a school about relations of mutual benefit--as was pointed out here by the USSR ambassador--between the socialist nations and those of our political and economic system.

I wish to add that it is not only the building of the dam which is important--as has been expressed in the words spoken here by those who have preceeded me at this rostrum--but that, at the same time, immense prospects are opened to Colombian trade in covering the financing of about $400 million, the cost of the dam. We are going to pay for it with the fruit of Colombian land: coffee, probably beef, possibly rice, manufactured products, cotton, all the articles Colombia exports. With this contract a market opens that can be as important a market as the EEC or even the U.S. market. [applause]

The civil projects will be carried out by Colombian engineers and with Colombian technology. Providing equipment and supervising the two projects--the work done by the Colombians and the equipment provided by the USSR--will be reciprocal. [sentence as heard] In this way I am sure we will advance successfully to the completion in under 10 years of this dam which will be the largest in Colombia.

The governor of Cordoba Department and the acting mines minister have spoken of the industrialization prospects for the department. Obviously, a project like Cerro Matoso--with prospects of coal exploitation, which would fuel cement factories such as the one in Barranquilla and eventually the sulphur factory--provide great expectations for the industrialization of Cordoba Department.

But I want to differ slightly with the rather generalized opinion that our nation's development depends on our speedy industrialization. I feel that the philosophy of the clear mandate [applause] is that this nation's most important resource is agriculture and livestock and one does not need industries to develop these. It is very misleading to believe that the greatness of a nation hinges on its industries. Evidently, industries are very important from many viewpoints, but whenever one examines the power of nations such as the United States or France or even the Soviet Union, one finds that the basis of development is livestock and that the basis of prosperity, the weapon of struggle against inflation, the instrument to maintain a certain degree of economic stability, is the production of food.

We have seen it during these years. Before, we said that Colombia's problem was the lack of foreign exchange, which was needed to make the big leap forward. Now we have at our disposal foreign exchange such as the nation has never had in its history.

And we have made a great leap forward, but we have discovered that the fundamental problem, as the first half of 1977 showed us, is the problem of agriculture, the problem of food. If we go back to the years of my administration prior to the so-called coffee bonanza--during the bonanza consumption went up throughout the country as a result of the revenues from the coffee price increase--we find that the great export potential, the great prospect of improving the Colombians' standard of living, is in serving as a breadbasket for our neighboring oil-producing nations, chiefly Venezuela and Ecuador, contributing to them our beef, rice, sorghum and agricultural products if we can maintain our domestic prices and supply at the same time.

Will we have to industrialize to grow? I think that what we will have to do is take advantage of our own resources and our own people. In this sense, and to conclude, Cordoba Department could in truth be called the Cinderella of the last half of the century, a double Cinderella, a Cinderella of the national government and a Cinderella of what was the former Bolivar Department during federal times. With the separation of Cordoba and Sucre, this region has progressed, and when we make announcements like that of today we are paying it back, taking the Cinderella out of the kitchen and into the drawing room so that she will receive visits, come in contact with people and contribute with her resources [applause] to the enrichment of all Colombia. I think that what we are celebrating is not an event for Cordoba. It is that Cordoba with its resources is lending a hand to all Colombia. [applause]

FAMOUS DOCTOR RELEASED BY KIDNAPERS

PA292021Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Dec 77 PA

[Text] Bogota--The family of Dr Jose Ignacio Barraquer has issued a communique to formally announce his release. This station was told that Barraquer returned safely to his residence in North Bogota by his own means between 2030 and 2100 last night. There was no indication as to the amount of ransom paid for the release of the famous Spanish ophthalmologist, who was held captive 15 days by persons who police believe are common criminals. It is believed that Barraquer will leave the country for sure.

The following is the text of the message released by his family:

Communique from the Barraquer family: The Barraquers are pleased to report that Professor Jose Ignacio Barraquer returned to his residence yesterday afternoon in perfect condition.

The Barraquers thank the authorities and those persons in Colombia, Spain and other countries who from the start showed interest in our problem, and whose support provided a major contribution to the release of our relative.

Bogota, 29 December, 1977

BRIEFS

COAL EXPORTS--Bogota, 28 Dec--Acting Mines and Energy Minister Tomas Held announced here today that in the near future Colombia will compensate for the cost of importing petroleum by using massive coal exports. According to the minister there are encouraging perspectives in the country's energy field. Colombia has massive coal reserves and has discovered important gas deposits in the Guajira region. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2032 GMT 28 Dec 77 PA]

CEEA OFFICIAL ON USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

PA060207Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Dec 77 p 15 PA

[Excerpt] Ecuador has arrived with a firm step at the use of atomic energy, Fausto Munoz R., secretary general of the Ecuadorean Atomic Energy Commission (CEEA), announced as he reported on his activities. "Atomic energy," he said, "is important to man in its peaceful uses, in its application to the various branches of medicine, agriculture, veterinary medicine, hydrology, in the evaluation of other natural resources, in the control of ecology, in the multiple phases of industry and in the generation of electric energy."

The CEEA is a public institution attached to the presidency. It has economic and administrative autonomy and was established 18 years ago, but has been an executive entity only since March, 1976. Its secretary general is an expert with excellent preparation: He graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in 1955 and worked for the Spanish Nuclear Energy Board. Later he worked at the University of Chicago and for the past 16 years has worked for the United States [as published] Government in this field.

The CEEA's principal goals and objectives include: the introduction of atomic energy into the country; advising the government on everything concerned with atomic energy; the development of the peaceful use of atomic energy and of fissionable and radioactive materials; cooperating with all educational or scientific research institutes in all aspects related to the use of atomic energy; promoting the training of specialists in this field; advising public and private agencies in the use of atomic energy, the prevention of its risks, and so forth.

The CEEA is presided over by Gen Rafael Rodriguez Palacios, secretary general of the National Security Council. Its board is composed of representatives of the ministries of foreign relations, defense, agriculture and livestock, education, health and natural resources and of the National Board of Economic Planning and Coordination. Ecuador is currently a member of the consultative committee for the Inter-American Atomic Energy Commission and of the board of directors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

A group of distinguished professionals has been gathered, among them two Ph.D.'s in physics and four masters degree holders in nuclear engineering, radiologist metallurgy and energy systems.

All of the country's radiotheraphy services are being serviced and provided with technical assistance. A 5-year development plan has been drafted to provide the country with adequate laboratories and installations so that the commission may fulfill the objective of introducing atomic energy into the country. The technical assistance that the country is receiving from the IAEA has also been considerable increased.

The radioactive materials safety regulation is ready. Its principal objective is to supervise the correct application of radioactive materials in all fields throughout the country. But, CEEA Secretary General Fausto Munoz explained, there is even more because our plans also include: cooperating with the IAEA in implementing educational programs in the field of atomic energy through the central university. Expert Dr Martin B. Crespi has come for this purpose. And in 1978 the necessary steps will betaken to present two programs at the national level--one on nuclear technology in agriculture and the other on the industrial application of radio isotopes.

APRA LEADER'S REACTION TO M. SALES BERMUDEZ STATEMENT

PA0521216Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 5 Jan.--The top Peruvian American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) Party leader today described as "unusual" the warning made by President Morales Bermudez that he will permit elections for the "transfer of government, but not of power."

Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, who recently visited Caracas, said that "it is unusual and debatable....There is no power without government or no government without power."

The veteran Peruvian politican considered the plebiscite held yesterday in Chile, called by President Augusto Pinochet, to be antidemocratic and to have trampled upon human rights. Haya de la Torre said he is in favor of the hemisphere condemning the Chilean plebiscite least it be imitated by other Latin American de facto governments.

Regarding the possibility of a similar situation in Peru, the APRA leader said that a constituent assembly has been convoked there and should be elected on 4 June, but that Morales Bermudez' recent statement is somewhat debatable.

The social democratic leader, who maintains very good relations with Venezuela's official party, Democratic Action, commented in a hopeful manner on Latin America's current political situation despite the bad prospects that exist in certain countries. Concerning this he said that one of the goals of APRA, the party he founded in 1931, is the elimination of all military dictatorships in Latin America.

To conclude, Haya de la Torre said that he doubts a Peruvian-Brazilian military alliance has been discussed.

BELAUNDE DEMANDS FREELY-ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT

PA0518555Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1647 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 5 Jan (AFP)--Former Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry last night proposed that the powers of the forthcoming constituent assembly be broadened to freely elect a civilian government. The head of the Popular Action Party spoke at a rally in the port of Callao and said that he will not accept a constituent assembly with limitations, alluding to recent statements by President Francisco Morales Bermudez.

The chief of state said on 30 December that the assembly will be dissolved by the military government if it enacts a reactionary political charter and that, in addition, there will be no transfer of power but only of the government.

Belaunde said that ever since the coup that overthrew him (in 1968) agricultural and livestock production has sharply declined in the country, for which reason "Peru is increasingly dependent on foreign countries." "More foodstuffs are imported every day, and this explains the hunger," the political leader said, adding that the newspapers under state control are trying to fill stomachs with triumphalist editorials.

Describing the unemployment problem as serious, he said that the labor force is increasing at the annual rate of 150,000 Peruvians.

Arguing that it is necessary to invest 300 billion soles ($2.308 billion) annually to provide employment to this army of people, he ended by stating that since the government cannot do everything it must instill confidence among private investors.

Opposes Constituent Assembly Limitations

PA060217Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0150 GMT 6 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 5 Jan (LATIN)--Former president Fernando Belaunde Terry has affirmed here that his party, Popular Action (AP), "will not accept" the imposition of limitations on the next constituent assembly. Belaunde Terry made this statement after demanding that the military regime expand the assembly's powers.

Without mentioning any names, the AP leader was referring to the most recent statements by chief of government Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, who has affirmed that the constituent assembly will have a limited range of activities and that if these limitations are overstepped, "we shall close it."

Belaunde, who presided over a huge meeting held last night in the port of Callao, said that those persons elected on 4 June to the constituent assembly should have full freedom to elect Peru's new civilian government.

"We insist that the president, vice president, deputies and senators should also be elected in the next elections," Belaunde added. Belaunde was overthrown by the armed forces on 3 October, 1968.

Nonetheless, he reiterated that AP accepts the challenge of participating in the election and has already registered at the National Electoral Jury.

Morales Bermudez said in a press conference on 30 December that if the constituent assembly does not reaffirm the structural reforms implemented by the revolution, it will be dissolved and the military government will remain in power.

According to the electoral call, the assembly must draft a new charter to replace the 1933 constitution. The new draft must institutionalize the reforms implemented since 1968.

Belaunde spoke for 35 minutes, referring to the unemployment situation in Peru. He mentioned some incidents in his overthrow by Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado and also said that he is willing to set aside any personal political ambitions for the sake of national harmony.

"I shall not be an obstacle to democratic unification and I shall support the formula creating greater fraternity," he said. However, he did not state if the political party he leads will initiate the formation of political coalition.

NAVY COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON POLITICS, ECONOMY

FL130300 Montevideo Cadena De Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 3 Jan 78 PY

[Interview with Rear Adm Hugo Marquez, commander in chief of the Uruguayan Navy, at Navy Headquarters in Montevideo, by Radio El Espectador Network--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Will new constitution for Uruguay be drafted?

[Answer] I cannot give you specific dates: You know I never like to mention dates, but this will be implemented pursuant to what has been stated earlier.

[Question] Provided that the established conditions--which were made known to the public--are met, will there be a single candidate in the 1981 election?

[Answer] I am not the one to change this or to have something to say about this, but since there has been no further communique, this means that there will be a single candidate.

[Question] Will the requirement for a single candidate delay the resumption of political activities in our country?

[Answer] By no means! He will only be a presidential candidate [and will not be associated with any party].

[Question] Do Uruguayan military officials attach high significance to the role which traditional political parties may again have in Uruguay?

[Answer] Their role will be highly significant since they will take the reins of the future institutional process, the political life and the government of our country.

[Question] At the beginning of 1978, are you optimistic over the prospects open to Uruguay to carry on actions which will enable the people, especially the most needy sectors, to improve their [economic] situation?

[Question] I am optimistic because I have been closely following this process. Yet, no one can expect instantaneous miracles. We are moving forward. Evidence of this is the recent wage increase, which everyone regarded as very meager. I told many people that we would have liked to grant a much higher increase, but you must be aware that no related price increases have taken place, and thus this was a real wage increase. We are moving very slowly on the difficult road to economic recovery. Yet, I can assure you, as history shows, that no country has ever been able to achieve economic recovery without having achieved first spiritual, moral and psychological recovery, both of individuals and families. Otherwise, there can be no economic recovery.

[Question] What can you tell us about the visit of a mission which will come to our country this month to discuss the human rights issue?

[Answer] The one thing I can tell you is that I know nothing about any mission coming to discuss this issue.

[Question] There have been press reports noting that a mission would arrive in January.

[Answer] Well, those are just news reports. We do not know anything about it.

[Question] Do you believe that there is consensus within the national government about your remarks on the economy?

[Answer] Yes, of course. More than consensus, I would say that my remarks reflect a clear awareness of a simple reality. The economy minister, the president of the republic and everyone within the government agree with me on this. We are recovering very slowly. No one can expect instantaneous recovery unless a miracle takes place in the country.

NAVY REBUTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGE

PY0517llY Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Summary] In a communique released today, the Uruguayan Navy rejected an Amnesty International report charging that a 46-year old woman, Miriam (Yvonne) de Suarez Netto, died in naval quarters.

The navy reports that Suarez Netto was arrested on 6 May 1977 charged with "prime facie" involvement in illegal association, punishable under the military penal code. Her trial before a military court started on 9 May 1977 and she was convicted and sentenced to a jail term. Her medical examination showed that she had been suffering from cancer of the uterus for at least a year. She entered the armed forces hospital on 3 August 1977 to undergo treatment for cancer of the uterus.

The communique adds that she was released on bail on 28 October 1977 and died 7 days later, 5 November, of cancer of the uterus, according to a diagnosis released by a local private hospital.

The navy urges all communications media, especially foreign news agencies, to widely disseminate this communique.

JAILED BRAZILIAN NEWSMEN PROVISIONALLY RELEASED

PY0600022Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilian journalist Flavio Tavares was given provisional freedom this afternoon by the Uruguayan military courts. Tavares left the central jail of police headquarters at 1500. However, he must stay in Uruguay until the courts hand down the final sentence in his case. As is known, Tavares was arrested on 14 July 1977 and put on trial for the crime of espionage.

BRIEFS

NAVAL PREFECT--The chief of the navy installed Capt Enrique Harriet today as national navy prefect. Harriet replaces Capt Cesar Reynoso who is retiring due to ill health. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jan 78 PY]

M E X I C O

ORIT SECRETARY SCORES U.S. ATTITUDE ON BRACEROS

FL052218Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2109 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Juan Jose del Pino, regional Inter-American Labor Organization (ORIT) secretary general, has termed as "repugnant" the U.S. Government position of trying to combine the sale of Mexican gas with the problem of the undocumented braceros who go to the country to the north.

He said that trying to link the two subjects is the result of a plan of President Carter. Del Pino further stated that the Mexican braceros in the United States receive "savage and discriminatory" treatment.

The ORIT secretary general, a Venezuelan, added that the North American goverrment does not enforce human rights when it comes to the Mexican immigrants.

PEMEX DIRECTOR ON SALE OF GAS TO U.S.

FL052151Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) director Jorge Diaz Serrano has said that Mexico is not in any hurry to sell its gas to the United States, and that it can wait 1, 2 or 3 years until it finds a buyer willing to accept its conditions.

When the North American user does not have gas, Diaz Serrano explained, he will have to heat his home or produce heat for his industry using a gas substitute which is No. 2 fuel--a light diesel--which has a price of $14 a barrel.

He indicated that 1 gallon of No. 2 fuel in New York is the same as 1,000 cubic feet of gas, which Mexico offered to sell to the North Americans at $2.60. He pointed out that the U.S. distributors called the proposed Mexican price "fair", but that it was not accepted by the White House.

Diaz Serrano pointed out that if an agreement with Washington (?is not) reached, rather than export its surplus gas Mexico will use if for its own industry and free (?its petroleum) for export.

He stated that with the construction of a gas pipeline Mexico will be able to export an additional 147,000 barrels of fuel daily, from which it will earn an additional income of 14.1 billion pesos--approximately $700 million--annually.

TORRIJOS ADDRESSES PRESS AFTER MEETING U.S. SENATORS

PA051249Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Press conference with General Omar Torrijos on 4 January following talks in Farallon with visiting U.S. Senators Howard Baker, John Chafee and Jake Garn--recorded]

[Text] [Torrijos] After going over the contours of our cause so much, I know that by now you are our friends. Although I have nothing definite to tell you because I did not expect nor do I now expect any senator to change his opinion as the result of a talk with me and a short visit, still we are very satisfied. I am very satisfied in the first place because I managed to make Senator Baker and the other two senators accompanying him come to Panama.

When I saw that Baker was leaving for India, I wondered: What is that man going to do in India? There he will observe 1,000 years of problems, while here with his presence and if our cause is sufficiently convincing, he might prevent 1,000 years of problems. So today I am satisfied to have him with us.

He has been able to see the spontaneity with which our people express themselves. The most positive thing about those who come to this country is that they realize they are not coexisting with an enemy country.

Senator Baker and the senators accompanying him have certain reservations. This pleases me greatly because I know that if we manage to convince them, if they discover that the spirit in each letter of the treaty tends to guarantee a more permanent relation with the United States, then instead of giving me a cold vote or just another vote theirs will be militant votes in our favor.

They are just men, all three of them. They are very much concerned over the United States maintaining a just relationship with weaker countries. And they are very proud to live in the world's first democracy. These elements make me think that at the moment of truth we will have in them three militants for the Panamanian cause.

They want to continue observing. They believe what I tell them but they want to reserve the right to observe for themselves whether or not what I tell them is true. This is the distrust inherent in every leader.

On Saturady before they leave we will have a last exchange of opinions. I have told them that those of us who lead this country have open minds. We are not dogmatic. We do not believe that truth lies only within the limits of what we say. And I have told them that if they have a better proposal we will accept it.

[Question] What does that mean?

[Answer] What does that mean? Exactly what you just though. [laughter] That there are no absolute truths, that in a discussion you have your truth and I have mine. If we subject those truths to a debate, we might reach a third truth that is even better than yours or mine. So as Panamanians let us all feel satisfied, and I feel more satisfied than anyone else because the harder task is being performed by our people in the spontaneous way in which they express themselves. [The senators]--have to visit the canal. They will see the operation of the locks. They also have to learn the opinions of those who operate the 1,442 km. Besides, I do not expect them to give me an answer here in Panama. But I do hope that when this problem is discussed in the Senate they will be sufficiently knowledgeable so as to be able to respond and dispel the doubts of those who do not understand the full scope of the problem.

[Question] General do you plan to receive Goldwater?

[Answer] Will I receive Goldwater? Sure. Everybody who comes to Panama must be received. It does not matter if we do not convince them, but we will be abiding by an elemental principle of courtesy by receiving anyone who comes to this country.

[Question] Did Senator Baker say that the treaty could not pass in the Senate and did he say that he could not support it in its present form?

[Answer] No, we did not talk in detail. He asked me if I had an open mind or if I was dogmatic. I am neither closed nor dogmatic. This is just his first day here and I hope that he will have a clearer view of the problem after visiting the country. Nothing can replace a personal inspection. You can read all the books you want about Panama but all that reading is insufficient when compared to a personal observation of the problem.

[Question] But did not Senator Baker tell you that the treaty as it is now could not pass the U.S. Senate?

[Answer] He has his reservations.

[Question] Did he say he could not support it?

[Answer] But this is proper and natural in a conscientious leader. It is the distrust inherent in a leader.

DRAFT CALENDAR FOR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS RELEASED

PA051952Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Jan 78 pp 1, 23 PA

[Text] As a result of the numerous questions on the opening of the 1978 electoral process, the secretariat general of the Electoral Tribunal notifies the public that the honorable magistrates of this tribunal are studying the draft of the decree that will convoke the popular elections for the 505 corregimiento representatives and their respective alternates for the constitutional term beginning on 11 October 1978.

According to the draft decree, the calendar of the electoral process would be the following: 13 February--The electoral process opens. Nominations begin. Registration of supporters begins; 1 March--The preliminary electoral registry is published and the period to register changes of residency begins; 31 March--Nomination of pre-candidates closes; 5 April--Challenges to the pre-candidates closes; 14 April--Registration of supporters closed; 19 April--Challenges to the registration of supporters closes; 25 April--Publication of the lists of candidates; 5 May: The process of issuing cedulas throughout the republic closes; 15 May--Registration of youths 18 or over begins; 5 June--The process of reissuing cedulas closes; 15 June--The period to register changes in residence and registration of youths 18 or over closes; 5 July--The final electoral registry list is published; 1 August--Installation of the local vote counting boards; 5 August--Polls are installed; 6 August--Popular elections are held; 7 August--Challenges to the elected candidates open; 10 August--Challenges to the elected candidates close; 16 August--The process of issuing cedulas reopen in the republic. Transfer of credentials.

The decree will be issued during the first part of February; 4 January 1978

NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD DESERTER ARRIVES

PA041512Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Sercano network]

[Text] Managua--Lt Jose Antonio Robleto, who arrived in Costa Rica after leaving that country's embassy in Managua, declared that his patrol had executed peasants in the northern part of the country where guerrillas are operating. Robleto says that in order to ease his conscience he will offer economic aid to persons affected by his actions from the income derived from the sale of a book he is writing on his experiences.

Robleto, a deserter of the national army, even though he is residing in Costa Rica, must serve a 2-year sentence as established by the National Guard's internal regulations.

Denounces Somoza Repression

PA051553Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1741 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jan (EFE)--Lt Jose Antonio Robleto Siles, who deserted from the Nicaraguan army and fled to Costa Rica, has accused General Somoza's regime of undertaking a merciless persecution against its enemies which has resulted in the death of more than 3,000 peasants since 1971.

In statements to the press in San Jose, Robleto Siles, who crossed the border clandestinely, said that his participation in the antiguerrilla actions permitted him to learn of the army's "brutal" tactics. He claimed that he was present at several executions and that his patrol directly participated in four during a 6-month period.

Referring to the guerrilla movement in Nicaragua, he said that it will never be suppressed, adding that it will impose a democratic change in the country.

Robleto took refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua in October but he did not obtain asylum since he is a deserter. He left the embassy on 31 December. His absence was not discovered until 2 January. Robleto Siles fled to the city of Granada on a bus whose driver helped him reach the border. He arrived in the Costa Rican town of Liberia and presented himself to the police who brought him to San Jose.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry is now studying his case. Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio has said that Robleto will not be extradited to Nicaragua but that he will not be given territorial aslyum unless it is proven that he was politically persecuted.

BRITISH OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ARRIVES

PA052226Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 5 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--British Overseas Development Minister Judith Hart arrived in San Jose last night at the invitation of Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber.

The government plans to show the British minister the way in which Costa Rica has used the British aid in various fields in order to request an increase in that aid.

The minister will meet with Oduber and Foreign Minister Gonzalo J. Facio this afternoon after she meets with the heads of the autonomous institutes which have received the British aid.

Tomorrow she will visit the areas where projects are being undertaken with the help of her country, including the third phase of the metropolitan aqueduct.

BRIEFS

INCREASED NATIONAL INCOME--Costa Rica's foreign currency income has reached a record level because of increased coffee prices. The total income was 2,055,273,927.20 colones, of which the government retained 472,939,706.10 colones, the coffee office reported. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Dec 77 PA]

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEATH--Costa Rican Attorney General Jose Francisco Chaverri Rodriguez died on 17 December 1977 from a heart attack. The Supreme Court of Justice will appoint a provisional substitute until his successor is duly appointed. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 19 Dec 77 p-6 a PA]

GUATEMALA

FAMILY OF KIDNAPED OFFICIAL ACCEPTS EGP DEMANDS

PA051600Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 5 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Jan (AFP)--The family of kidnaped government adviser Roberto Herrera Ibarguen today accepted the demands set by the guerrillas holding him. The demands, which were released to the news media today by the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), the group that has taken credit for the kidnapping, are the following:

The publication in all newspapers and radio and television newscasts of the EGP bulletin issued to the press; the publication in all news media of an EGP communique addressed to the Guatemalan people; the payment of a ransom whose amount is unknown.

Meanwhile, government spokesman Rolando Archila said that "the government still has not taken a position on the EGP demands for the release of Herrera Ibarguen because it does not know what they are."

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL--On 12 December 1977 Dr Juan Jose Arevalo presented his credentials as Guatemala's ambassador to Israel. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 28 Dec 77 p 1 PA]

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW, VIEWS BELIZE

PA052220Y Tegucigalpa TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Dec 77 p 4 PA

[Interview conducted by TIEMPO with Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Palma Galvez--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Oil and its byproducts are currently one of the most crucial problems affecting the economies of many nations, particularly the economies of the developing countries which do not produce oil. This calls for an effective policy which seeks to maintain the closest possible ties with the oil-producing countries, particularly those of this continent. Does the Foreign Affairs Ministry have a policy in this regard, particularly in connection with Venezuela and Mexcio?

[Answer] As you know, the so-called energy crisis threw our economic policy off balance. This was the consequence of a policy which was foreign to us but from which we, the developing countries, have suffered the most. I want to emphasize that, together with other ministries, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has been handling this situation very tactfully and we are very pleased to note that the problem has been solved to some extent through our negotiations with Venezuela.

[Question] This year a Foreign Policy Council composed of former foreign ministers was created for the purpose of giving advice on Honduran foreign policy. What is Honduran foreign policy and what has been the council's contribution in that regard?

[Answer] In my opinion, the creation of the Foreign Policy Council was a positive step because it has gathered together highly intelligent people who possess a broad knowledge of international law. As for your question concerning Honduran foreign policy, my only answer is that we respect the laws governing the conduct on nations, which are specifically embodied in the UN and OAS charters as well as the treaties we have entered into.

[Question] Can you outline for us Honduran policy regarding consular and diplomatic relations with communist countries?

[Answer] I think I have previously answered this type of question. We have recognized and accepted ideological pluralism, which entails political action, because in the present world the interdependence of nations demands closer ties to promote economic, trade and cultural relations and so forth. In a nutshell, we belong to the OAS, which fully accepts pluralism, thereby respecting the principle of self-determination.

[Question] Due to situations arising from the policies of the big powers, countries such as Taiwan and Korea currently offer great, mutually beneficial possibilities concerning the transfer of technology, joint private and state investments and other exceptional trade measures. What has Honduras done to take advantage of these opportunities?

[Answer] You can objectively look at the efforts we have made to obtain benefits from trading with other countries. I am glad to note that you have mentioned Taiwan and Korea because one of the aims in building such monumental works as the complex at Puerto Cortes is to promote the export and import trade.

[Question] The negotiations between Honduras and El Salvador involve heavy experditures not only to fulfill the mediation commitments but to conduct research into the colonial archives. How is the financing problem being handled and how will it be solved in the future?

[Answer] Naturally, the process of negotiations which, fortunately, has been initiated and continued with El Salvador involves substantial monetary expenditures. The dispute with the neighboring country is of national interest. Therefore, no mental or financial effort has been spared in regard to all aspects which are fundamental to upholding our position vis-a-vis the Salvadoran demands. Obviously, all work done to date has been financed through our general income and expenditures budget. All this had been provided for and considered in full detail. Provisions have been made for the future even though in slight degree we have been obliged to apply a policy of rational austerity, which does not have any negative effect on the national development plan that has been set into motion by the Armed Forces Government.

[Question] What is the status of our relations with Great Britain and Belize in view of Honduran official position regarding Belize? Does Honduras have a defined policy regarding Belize if and when it becomes independent?

[Answer] For half a century Honduran traditional policy has been one of moral support for Guatemala's demands over Belize. However, this does not keep us from maintaining cordial relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which is aware of our earnest support for a peaceful solution of the problem.

NEW DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS

PA052004Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 4 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Defense and Public Security Minister Lt Col Francisco Ruiz Andrade today said that the military regime is aware that "the country needs to be ruled by a constitutional government."

Honduras, which has been ruled by militarymen since 1972, is preparing for a political campaign regulated by an electoral law that the government promulgated on 1 January. The electoral law provides for the return to a constitutional government in 1979.

Ruiz Andrade, who was appointed 2 days ago, said that "the Armed Forces cannot impose its wishes on the National Constituent Assembly because it will be established as a result of an election and will be the all-embracing power of the country. Its members will decide on the procedures for the country's political future."

He indicated that "with the election of new authorities who will be responsible citizens, consistent with the people's aspirations and needs, the development programs begun by the military government will be continued."

He referred to the dispute between Honduras and El Salvador which fought a 100-hour war in 1969, saying that "we are extremely optimistic that peace will be reached this year since we are making all necessary efforts to achieve that goal."

Ruiz Andrade replaced Col Alonso Flores Guerra [as received] who reportedly will become ambassador to Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA

REFUGEE REPORTS 64 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BARRACKS

PA032020Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0224 GMT 3 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 2 Jan (AFP)--It was reported here today that a refugee in the Venezuelan Embassy has charged that there are 64 political prisoners in six military barracks in this capital and in other Nicaraguan cities. The charge was made by Elberto Velez, a member of the State Security Corps who sought asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy on 23 December.

Attorney Aquiles Centeno, who has been informed about Velez' charges, has asked national security chief Samuel Genie to bring forth the alleged prisoners.

According to Velez, the prisoners are peasants who were arrested following the foiled offensive of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in October under suspicion of collaborating with the front.

BRIEFS

NEW ARMY SECRETARY--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle has sworn in Gen Cesar Napoleon Suazo as secretary of the Armed Forces General Command. [Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 20 Dec 77 p-32 PA]

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER

FL051210Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC, yesterday received Marcelino Camacho, secretary general of the Spanish Workers Commissions and deputy to parliament from the Spanish Communist Party. The Spanish leader is paying a visit to Cuba at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers. In the talks, Camacho explained to Fidel different aspects of trade union work in his country under the present conditions. Problems dealing with the relations between the two countries' progressive and popular forces and other matters of mutual interest were also examined during the talks.

CAMACHO EXPLAINS OBJECTIVES OF SPANISH PEOPLE

FL052102Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A Spanish labor leader, Marcelino Camacho, says his country's working class is looking with sympathy and admiration upon the struggles of the workers in Latin America. Mr Camacho, who is now in Cuba, explained that the objectives of the Spanish peoples are the governing and consolidation of democratic freedoms. He said these freedoms must not only be political but also social and economic. The labor leader noted that in order to achieve this, worker unity is necessary and urgent.

Mr Camacho is in Cuba as a guest of the Cuban labor federation.

PALESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE ANNIVERSARY MARKED

FL052304Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] An exposition marking the 13th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian people's armed struggle has been opened in the lobby of the inter-provincial bus terminal in Havana. The exposition contains posters showing the permanent alert status of Palestinian refugees, their conditions of life, the solidarity of Cuba and other socialist nations, and photographs of the disasters caused by the Israeli imperialist and reactionary attacks.

Ihsam Salim, Palestine Lberation Organization representative in Cuba, recalled that on 1 January 1965 his people initiated the armed struggle as the only means to achieve their just aspirations to form an independent nation. He denounced the Cairo-Israeli plot which will not lead to any solution and constitutes treason to the Arab cause by Anwar as-Sadat.

Yolanda Perez, executive secretary of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, also spoke. She asserted that a settlement on the Middle East situation without the presence of Palestine is impossible.

COMMEMORATION OF HAVANA UNIVERSITY ANNIVERSARY

FL060327 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 6 January carries a live relay of a "solemn ceremony" marking the 25th founding anniversary of the University of Havana. Havana Domestic Service (Radio Liberacion) also carries the ceremony.

Television coverage opens with the cameras focusing on the stage of what appears to be a university auditorium. A television announcer reports that "PCC Politburo members Blas Roca and Armando Hart Davalos" are presiding over the ceremony along with other unidentified members of the PCC Central Committee, government leaders and "a representation of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country." Roca, Hart Davalos and six other officials are then seen approaching the stage and taking their seats there. The national anthem is played as the cameras focuses on the Cuban flag.

Although not mentioned, PCC Central Committee members Belarmino Castilla Mas and Jose Ramon Fernandez are among the presiding officials on the stage.

Immediately after the national anthem, an unidentified speaker, possibly a Havana University official, begins reading from a prepared text at 0133 GMT. In a speech ending at 0141 GMT, he opens by stressing the significance of this ceremony which opens the "principal week" of commemorative activities marking the 25th anniversary of Havana University "which constitutes a symbol of our people's cultural, scientific and revolutionary traditions."

He says that the university has made its greatest efforts for the development of a new society. He goes on to pay tribute to all men and women who in these 25 years have given their best, "at times, even their lives," for the university and its political and revolutionary struggles. He also gives recognition to the "forgers of science and culture" who gave the university solid prestige. Among these, he mentions Enrique Jose Varona and Juan Marinello. He further pays tribute to the young students who in this century struggled for structural changes at the university and called on the people to fight.

The unidentified speaker turns briefly to the university saying that it is now at the forefront in the development of specialists with the proper ideology who are militarily prepared to defend the fatherland. He adds that the university also is involved in social, cultural and sports activities.

Then, on behalf of university leaders, he gives thanks for the presence of foreign university rectors. He mentions, among others, those of the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Mongolia, Vietnam, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Caracas Central University and Angola. He conveys greetings to all universities "with which we have fraternal relations" and recognition of all who have made possible the achievement of scheduled university activities. He mentions the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, other mass organizations and the people in general. He concludes by expressing gratitude to the party and government leadership and Fidel Castro for the development of the university and education.

Without introduction, Central Committee member Belarmino Castilla Mas then approaches the podium and begins reading a prepared text at 0142 GMT. Castilla Mas begins by stating that "we are gathered tonight to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Havana University." He then hails the struggles of the university which "today participates in the fundamental tasks for building socialism in our fatherland" and is "linked to the progressive and revolutionary activities in the life of our country."

Continuing, Castilla Mas says that this is an opportune time to make a "brief analysis" of the evolution of Havana University and its link to the country's political life. He then proceeds to speak for an hour, recounting political, social and educational events involving and affecting Havana University over the past 250 years, beginning with its founding in 1728 by Dominican friars.

Toward the end of his historical "analysis," Castillas Mas outlines the work of the revolution to advance and develop the education field in Cuba, especially university education, saying that "today higher education is a real possibility" for all. He also stresses the need to teach Marxism-Leninism as part of the university curriculum "as the ideology of the working class."

Castilla Mas discusses, among other things, the work-study system "which has become a reality" in Cuba. Citing Fidel Castro, he adds that one of the objectives of education is to "prepare individuals for their participation in society." He goes on to say that the university will respond to the demands of science, technology and progress but that "sustained work" is required to raise the quality of teaching and eliminate any deficiencies in study programs and in the planning of the educational process.

Castilla Mas concludes at 0248 GMT saying that Havana University, on this 250th founding anniversary, "can proudly proclaim that the social function it plays is enhanced each day and becomes greater, that the seeds which the revolution is sowing" in the university is spreading everywhere "as a fruit of proletarian internationalism." He adds that "no one doubts" the university's well-known "influence in the development of Cuban society." After greetings to the "friendly delegations which are with us today on this 250th anniversary of Havana University," Castilla Mas, on behalf of the party and revolutionary government, urges university professors, workers and students to "continue struggling to carry on the best ideas and noblest purposes which stimulate this prestigious institution." After applause subsides, the "International" is played as everyone in the hall and stage stands. Television coverage ends at 0252 GMT.

CULTURE MINISTRY, CDR SIGN COOPERATION PLAN

FL051135Y Havana Domestic Service 1100 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member and Culture Minister Armando Hart and Jorge Lezcano, member of the PCC Central Committee and national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], have signed in Havana City a cooperation plan between the two institutions for the current year. With the plan, the two institutions seek to achieve a highly creative atmosphere which would guarantee the development of our people's potential in arts and literature.

In a meeting held in Santiago de Cuba, which was chaired by the culture minister, it was announced the upcoming publication of a cultural tabloid of the newspaper SIERRA MAESTRA. Hart said that the publication, besides reflecting the spiritual and cultural life of Santiago de Cuba and other eastern provinces, will be an incentive which will have an influence on the country's cultural life.

BRIEFS

ARSONISTS ARRESTED--Ernesto Arregoitia Rubio, a watchman of the Amadeo Roldan Theater, and Augusto Lazaro Valdes Scregui, an employee of the Valdes Rodriguez Junior High Farming School, have been arrested and charged with setting on fire their places of employment, both located on the municipality of Plaza de la Revolucion. During the investigations, it was determined by Interior Ministry agents that the crimes had been perpetrated by two antisocial elements, who placed in jeopardy the lives of innocent victims, including children. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jan 78 FL]

MEXICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY DELEGATION--Jose Ramirez, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], has chaired a meeting between leaders of this peasant organizatio and members of the Mexican People's Party Central Committee delegation headed by (Sabino Hernandez), member of the party Executive Committee. During the meeting, held at the Niceto Perez ANAP Cadre School in Guira de Melena, the visitors were given information on the school. (Hernandez), in turn, stressed the importance of the labor-peasant alliance. Jose Ramirez explained to the Mexican delegation the operation of cooperatives and details of their operation. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL]

NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMISSION--On 12 January, the National Monument Commission will be officially established in Bayamo. The ceremony establishing the commission will be held on that date in honor of the 109th anniversay of the day on which the residents of the city of Bayamo set the city on fire rather than allow Spanish colonialist troops to seize it. The National Monument Commission will be attached to the Ministry [not identified] and is being created by virtue of Law No 2 approved by the People's Government National Assembly in its session of June 1977. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL]

MATANZAS HARVEST MEETING--During a meeting held near the Espana Republicana Sugar Mill, Julian Rizo, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Matanzas Province, referred to the enthusiastic and combative spirit of the province's sugar industry workers. At the same time, he recommended that the manual cutting and lifting of the sugarcane be intensified, that operations of the harvesters be stablized and that a perfect agro-industrial coordination be achieved, among other suggestions. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL]

LIVESTOCK-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MEETING--PCC Central Committee members Rafael Francia Mestre and Lino Carreras, minister of agriculture and vice minister of the cattle industry, respectively, have attended a meeting held in Rancho Boyeros to discuss the livestock-agricultural production for the current year. It was announced that present plans represent a considerable increase in the production of tubers, vegetables and other agricultural goods for our people, tasks which will be supervised by areas. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Jan 78 FL]

CIENFUEGOS POWER PLANT OUTPUT--By the year 1979, Cienfuegos' Carlos Manuel de Cespedes thermoelectric power plant will have a total capacity of 402,000 kilowatts. Currently, it has 2 units of 32,000 kilowatts each and 2 units of 179,000 kilowatts each are under construction, which are being built by workers of the Industrial Construction Enterprise No 6 of the Construction Ministry. The first of these 2 units will be completed by year's end and the other by the middle of 1979. When all these units are in operation, the capacity of the thermoelectric power plant will increase to 402,000 kilowatts, as stated before. [as heard] [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL]

NEW CUBAN VESSEL--A new freighter, the "O'Higgins," has joined the national fleet when it arrived in Santiago de Cuba, where it is tied to the Guillermo Moncada dock. The 14,530 dwt vessel was built in Denmark and is part of a flotilla of 5 similar ships, of which only one has not yet been delivered. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL]

READINESS TO HOST 8TH OAS MEETING DISCUSSED

FL052052Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 1910 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Dominican Republic's foreign relations secretary, Vice Admiral Ramon Emilio Jimenez, Jr., has stated that our country is ready to host the OAS eighth assembly in case that organization does not meet in Uruguay. He pointed out that in case the OAS member nations decide to hold the meeting in Santo Domingo, the government is prepared. At the same time, the Dominican foreign secretary stated that the country has not and will not make any kind of effort for the meeting to be held here.

Although the foreign secretary did not say so, it appears that several OAS countries are opposed to holding the assembly in Uruguay because of internal problems affecting that South American nation. This had resulted in a group of countries setting their sights on the Dominican Republic, which enjoys a democratic regime and which is jealous of its respect for human rights.

The position of the countries which want the OAS assembly meeting held here shows the importance of the prevailing political system in our country. For this reason we have the capabilities and conditions to host any hemispheric meeting at any time. An era of development exists here, which every year grows and we enjoy an environment of peace which our government considers indispensable to the well-being of the nation. Because of this, we can today enjoy the conditions offered by the democratic system, and because of this our development, which has been comprehensive, is strengthened daily in a noteworthy manner.

PRD-SOCIAL CHRISTIAN UNITY TALKS REPORTED

FL052010Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 1950 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Text] [Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) Secretary General] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez has declared that so far there have been no official talks between the PRD and the [Revolutionary] Social Christian Party for a political agreement. Pena Gomez said that there have been only personal meetings with Social Christian leaders.

Lic Rogelio Delgado Bogaert, chairman of the "Green" party, had declared that an attempt was being made to reach an alliance between the two opposition parties. He told newsmen at a press conference that several meetings had been held with PRD leaders aimed at a joint participation in the May general elections

COLLISION OF SHIPS REPORTED

FL051950Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listeners Abroad 1905 GMT 5 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo--Two vessels have collided in the Atlantic Ocean waters near Puerto Plata resulting in personal injuries and one of the vessels being destroyed. The vessel "Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre," with 23 Dominican fishermen aboard, was destroyed by a vessel of undetermined registration. In reporting the high-seas collision to authorities, they said that the crew of the unidentified vessel ignored their call for help and the vessel left the area at full speed.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER GIVES OUTLINES OF FUTURE PLANS

FL051555Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Jan 78 p 3 FL

[Text] Barbadians ushered in the new year not only with traditional gaiety and merry-making, but also with the sobering words of their prime minister, Mr. Tom Adams, ringing in their ears.

The prime minister addressed the nation for the new year on radio and television on Saturday night. In his speech, the prime minister not only spelt out his 15-month-old government's achievements during the past year, but also its plans for the immediate future.

Mr. Adams also sounded a note of warning about the advocated new and different political systems which he deemed as alien, and the dangers posed to democracy in the country.

In his speech he said:

"After 15 months of a new administration and new thrusts in government, I thought that it would be fitting that the advent of a new year could be taken as a time for assessing our position as a young nation--a time for taking stock, a time for measuring our achievements against our pledges.

Preparations

"A time also for telling you something of our preparations for a future in which we are sure all Barbadians will find an active and meaningful place.

"Rather more than a year ago the Barbados Labour Party compiled a political, social and economic programme for presentation to the people based on traditional principles of our party and on our recent thinking in the light of the stagnation into which our country had fallen.

"Our manifesto captured the imagination of the public as few political documents ever have in this island. In the general election the Barbadian electorate exercised its traditional right to offer an opportunity to a new government and we in the Barbados Labour Party were granted the privilege and authority to introduce to this community those measures of change and progress which were outlined in our manifesto.

"At the very outset of our document we had pledged to institute a Commission for the Protection of the Constitution. A substantial portion of our population had shown very profound distaste for the unilateral action to amend the Constitution of Barbados taken by the previous regime, and we therefore considered that we owed it to all citizens, both present and future, to take steps which would minimise the danger of any unwarranted tampering with the Constitution under any future government.

"As promised, a Constitution Commission has now been established. Its chairman is Senator M.E. Cox and its membership comprises a cross-section of distinguished persons eminent in a number of fields. In passing I may mention that the leader of the opposition has declined government's invitation to him to serve or to nominate someone else to serve as a member of the commission. We regret his decision, but life must go on and the commission's work will begin early in January.

"In governmental matters generally, the Barbados Labour Party has also honoured its other commitments. We have reduced the number of ministeries and cut the number of parliamentary secretaries by more than half.

"There can be no doubt that the work of parliament has shown dramatic improvement in the period since September 1976. It should be a source of satisfaction to the taxpayers of Barbados that their representatives in the legislature have kept faithfully to their duties, processing unprecedented volumes of government business, and generally associating ordinary members of parliament with the machinery of government in a manner hardly seen in recent years. Here again we were not only keeping an election promise; but also proceeding in a way very important for us at a time when this country needed our good example as much as our good advice.

"In the area of economic policy, the government has adopted the broadest possible general strategy to combat Barbados' economic ills; and particular aspects of policy, for example in banking, export promotion and development lending, though of special interests to individual sectors, should be seen really as part of a combined effort rather than as isolated devices.

"Thus, in the interest both of our balance of payments and of employment of white collar workers we undertook to create tax haven facilities in the island. Active steps have already been taken in this direction and we are receiving information from sections of the commercial banking community that overseas clients are showing a positive interest in our policies.

"The Barbados Central Bank has been giving attention to the redrafting of legislation relating to encouragement of offshore financial institutions, and it is expected that by February of this new year substantial new legislation will be provided for the establishment of the Barbados National Bank which should become operational within the next three months.

Reserves

"We can now derive some measures of satisfaction from the fact that our net foreign reserves at the end of 1977 do not, in all circumstances and after the draw down of foreign credits available to us, compare unfavourably with those of the preceding year.

"The manufacturing sector has responded well to the challenge of restricted access to regional markets, and as a result of vigorous export drives (encouraged by the government) has been developing alternative markets, especially in Europe.

"In the field of development lending, I would particularly draw your attention to the work done by the Barbados Development Bank since the new administration has been operating it. As a tool in our economic strategy, this institution under its new directorate has performed quite spectacularly. In the nine months up to 31st December, 1977, the Barbados Development Bank has actually over-disbursed $5m.

"Projections show that within the next three months there will be further disbursements totalling $5 1/2m, giving a projected total of $10,568,511 in one year as compared with just over $10,447,000 in the eight years before the new Barbados Labour Party government came into office.

"That first $5m created over 1,700 jobs in construction alone, and another 300 permanent positions in the new hotels and industrial enterprises setup. The second $5m will maintain or exceed this job creation record, and this will then be approaching the level of employment that we are aiming at as a continuing development input into the economy from this source alone. It should not be necessary for me to remind you that this forms only a part of government's overall economic policy."

"Especially relevant at this time to economic planning is the question of wage and pay restraint. While this matter will be dealt with a greater length on another occasion, I must urge one and all to understand that the proposed pay policy will be effected simultaneously with a policy which will control prices and which will enforce some element of redistribution of income. In particular, our prices policy will seek to eliminate exhorbitant mark-ups whether goods are locally produced or imported regionally or extra-regionally, and I feel confident that Barbadians will welcome such effective guardianship of our economy.

"Today we have in hand analytical evidence that measures taken by government to revitalise the economy are taking hold. Indeed except for the government's own finance the year has ended on a much brighter note than many had predicted.

"I must continue to caution, however, that government sees its role in the present situation not as one of advancing sectoral interests, but of protecting the best interests of the community as a whole.

"This is always a difficult proposition in which different sides may not at all times appreciate either the special positions of others or that national well-being must supercede even their most urgent internal demands.

"Nevertheless, there lies behind all these divergent interests the firm bedrock of Barbadian commonsense and fair play. The government is therefore confident that as it proceeds on the road for common good, it does so with the best wishes of all responsible citizens.

"With this in mind we look forward to our prospects for 1978. The good sense of Barbadians was evident when we appealed to the good of people of this country a year ago to put an end to the malicious burning of canes, an appeal which we are renewing this year. Cane farmers have already demonstrated their faith in the land by returning substantial portions to agricultural production.

Sugar

In 1976 there was a total sugar yield of 102,168 tons, in 1977 as much as 117,811 tons were produced. It is now being predicted that if we experience reasonable rainfall during the next few weeks sugar production in 1978 could be in the region of 120,000 tons.

"The picture in tourism is equally promising, and I feel that the Barbados Board of Tourism, local hoteliers and all of their many employees should take credit for helping to bring so many visitors to our shores.

"Certainly their efforts have gone a long way towards reinforcing government's new tourist promotion drives, as can be seen from the increasing number of middle-income visitors in addition to the greater diversity of countries from which tourists now arrive on our island.

"During the period January to October 1976 there were 181,245 visitors to this country. For the same months in 1977 the figure rose to 216,145 and all the projections for the season just under way are even more favourable.

"It would be impossible for me to list all the projects the government intends to carry out in 1978, but if you have kept a copy of our party's manifesto, you may be able to follow some of the other positive steps taken and to be taken by the new government in honouring its election pledges.

"Infrastructural improvements are continuing apace. In a few days I shall be breaking the ground for a new post office at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.

"The Ministry of Communications and Works is steadily progressing with the plan for the Harbour/Spring Garden Road which will not only open up new development areas in St. Michael but will ease some of our difficult traffic spots, for example at Eagle Hall east of the existing CBC-Pine Hill dairy complex, progress is also being made for an access road linking Upton in Christ Church to Highway 5 and to St. George.

"This will greatly facilitate both the Barbados Marketing Corporation and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic which are both to be relocated in that area. In St. Peter work on the Speightstown by-pass will shortly be started.

"On the eastern seaboard there will also be substantial improvement. In particular preliminary work on a study for the extension of the east coast road is underway, and the government is setting aside the entire eastern coastline for general seascape, park and recreational development.

"In Bridgetown the entire Church Village area will be redeveloped with a new major multi-story building for the central bank. There will be a tree park at Delamere Land and new road development will be effected in the Halls Road area simultaneously with resiting or with protective measures for residents in a district heavily prone to flooding.

"But protection of the people's lives is not something new to this government. The free health service, which is at an advanced stage of planning, must surely be evidence of our interest in the people's physical well-being.

"Back in 1976, Barbados spent US $72 per head of population on its health services, according to the latest Pan American Health Organisation figures. That figure was considerably more than any of our nearer CARICOM partners.

"Since the new government has come into power this extensive health expenditure has even been improved to a rate of over US $90 per capita in the current financial year. The new health centre now going up at Litchfield, St. Peter is one of the fruits of our spending.

"Let us turn briefly to the question of public transport to say that in response to public demand, units of the transport board are now serving the people's need in districts where they have never travelled before. Transport board buses can now be found all over the island for the first time.

"Government has also kept its promise to raise the school leaving age to 16. It has encouraged the development of our handicraft industry in which many young people have found employment. One of our party's long-standing pledges related to immigration policy was made clear long before the last general election.

"We are happy to say that we have honoured our commitment to remove certain forms of discrimination in this area, and it is now possible for the husbands of Barbadian women to live and work here as part of our community, free of the fear of harrassment and unwarranted pressures that were common not so long ago.

Security

"As further protection of the people's rights, a whole series of law reforms measures will be coming before parliament early in the new session. Protection in the area of national security will be further enhanced when the defence force is inaugurated next April and this will be directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of at least 100 Barbadians in the initial stages.

"Finally, I must sound a note of warning to the country. Recently you may have heard and noticed the voices of certain persons who have suddenly found it possible to make statements on important subjects. You may have noticed that these voices, which were muted under the previous regime, are all of a sudden advocating other political systems quite alien to our way of life.

"I must ask that you reflect on the great store of goodwill, decency, stability, harmony and unity which have always been a part of the Barbadian character.

"I must ask you to consider that whereas there are wealthy people in this country as well as poor people we do not have the vicious divisions of wealth or race which have ignited strife in other countries, some of them sadly near to us in the Caribbean.

"I must appeal to all peace-loving citizens of this country to seek always to maintain our democratic ways, and to judge the disciples of these new creeds for what they really are. I appeal to you in this way because your government does not intend to be diverted from its path of honest progress for Barbadians.

"You may rest assured that it will not be deflected from its proper course by the lashing together of any number of the old pans and worn out vessels which you the people have so recently already proven to be empty of the idea and hope for the future.

"Let them spend their energy beating one against the other in futile and frustrated noisiness. Whatever distraction they may attempt to create, I am confident that Barbadians have put us here to govern, and you therefore have our pledge that govern we will.

"As we reflect on the events of 1977 with understandable pride because of our nation's progress during these past twelve months, we are, at the same time, looking to the new year with renewed determination to achieve our goals.

"This determination, plus the drive for achievement for which Barbadians have become famous will insure that Barbados continues down the road that will make it a better place not only for the mothers and fathers of the island but for the children and indeed their children's children.

'Good night and best wishes for 1978."

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